9-28-11

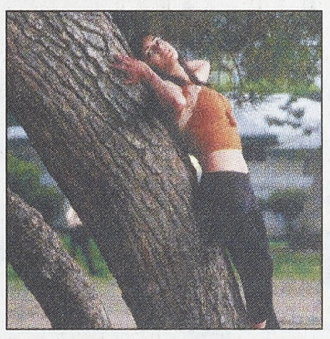
Los Angeles Valley College

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper of Valley College

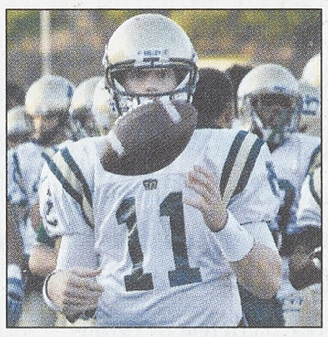
FOLLOW US ON:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



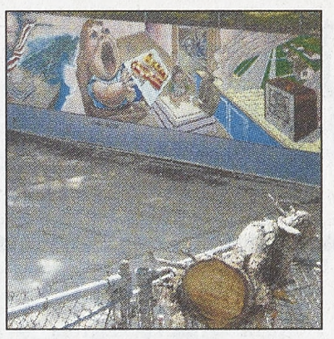
The Valley College Dance club and ECO Advocates team up for "Moving Planets" at the Valley Glen Community Park.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



The Monarchs win at San Diego despite an injury to quarterback Dan Owen who is now out for the season with a broken femur.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 5



Meet "Great Wall Mother" Judith Baca and the restoration of Los Angeles' Great Wall.

SEE GALLERY PAGE 6

www.lavalleystar.com | September 28, 2011 | Vol. 75, Issue 4

STUDENT ATHLETES TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP

More than 60 volunteering student athletes joined in the name of cleanliness Friday at Valley College in support of the athletic department's campus clean up program.

ANTWONE MERCER
STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball coach Virgil Watson, baseball's assistant coach Chris Johnson, softball's assistant coach Erzy Perez and more than 60 combined team members worked side-by-side last Friday, collecting trash around Valley College in effort to beautify the campus.

"Every little contribution helps," said Head of Maintenance Brian Everitt.

At 11 a.m., the student athletes met with the coaches at the north gym and were handed gloves, large trash bags and a map of the campus with designated clean-up zones highlighted. The baseball team cleaned from Monarch Stadium all the way around to Burbank Boulevard. The softball team covered the inner part of the campus, from the humanities building to the bungalows. The basketball squad handled the alley area, including the cafeteria and the library, up to Oxnard Avenue. After an hour and a half of trash collecting the supportive students piled several bags with trash which were to be hauled away by campus maintenance.

"If every student would use the Dumpsters placed everywhere around the campus, it would leave us more time to focus on bathroom and classroom clean ups [and] more importantly, the ongoing graffiti problem."

According to Watson, the organizer of the campus clean-up project, the athletic department hopes to continue promoting the campus clean-up challenge and influence students, faculty and all the school clubs to partake in maintaining a clean campus.

"We encourage all students and faculty to practice campus cleanliness and help keep the grounds free of waste," said Watson.



RICHARD RAZAVI | VALLEY STAR

ALTERNATIVE STAGE, ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION - The Valley College Dance club performs on a tree as their stage at Valley Glen Community Park. The Dance club contributed the performance "Natural Beauty" in collaboration with the ECO Advocates club for the Moving Planet event promoting alternative transportation. The dance was choreographed by Noelle Andressen-Kale, the Dance club's president.

CONSTRUCTION PASSES HALFWAY POINT

Construction and repair projects are continuing in the fall semester, starting with the removal of pine trees to make way for the new Performing Arts Center.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Fewer construction projects are scheduled this fall semester at Valley College, but the controversial uprooting of multiple pine trees to make room for the new Performing Arts Center is expected to cause a stir on campus.

Valley is more than halfway through the $626 million "reVitalizing Valley" project intended to modernize existing buildings and construct new sustainable buildings on campus. The construction is planned to take place in several phases, and the scheduled completion in 2014 is inching closer. The project is paid for by several tax-increase measures and is earmarked for construction and remodeling only; the funds can't be used for any other purposes, such as creating more classes or faculty salaries.

Completion of the Library and Academic Resource Center—located at the campus' main entrance—is scheduled for the end of January 2012, but will not be ready for students until the 2012 summer session. This project fell nine months behind schedule due to the bankruptcy of the construction company. The delay has pushed deadlines on other projects, yet the bond program is still within budget. "We lost time, but we're not financially adverse," said Eloy Retamal, project director for Valley's Bond Program.

The multiple repairs required for the Allied Health and Sciences Center is continuing. "It's way over budget," said Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administrative services, adding that Valley is currently in litigation over poor workmanship with the company responsible for the original construction. "We're still working on it, still fixing problems. It leaks, and now we know why," said Jacobsmeyer.

The construction of the new performing arts center will require removing 63 Canary Pine trees along Oxnard Street before the late summer bird nesting season. The decision to remove the trees has drawn protests from the local neighborhood. In response, Valley's Bond Program offered to give the trees to the community for relocation, free of charge. However, uprooting and transporting the trees are costly procedures and there have been no takers thus far.

"We're trying to make it purposeful, so the trees don't go to waste," said Retamal. "If there are no takers for the trees, they will go into the construction process as building materials and wood panelling, or be donated to veteran services."

> **"We're still working on it, still fixing problems. It leaks, and now we know why."**
>
> -Tom Jacobsmeyer
> Vice President,
> Administrative Services

New trees will be planted to replace the pines once the performing arts center is built. In line with creating a more sustainable campus these trees will be a mix of Coast Lilac, Chinese Evergreen Elm, and London Planetree, which are all smaller in size and drought resistant. Despite the good intentions of Valley's Bond Program, some students are left with mixed emotions about the uprooting. "I think that it is a shame that they cut down the trees in the first place and do not really understand why they could not replace the old buildings rather than building new ones in a new spot," said ECO Advocate president Emelie Traub in an email.

"It is nice that they are replacing the trees and with drought-resistant species nonetheless, but those trees do not have the same value as the original trees that had been rooting for so many years. It will take very long for the new trees to be able to shade and provide aesthetic beauty to the school like the old ones did."

IDEAS FOR A REAL WORLD

This diverse entertainment workshop offers a vast array of beneficial options.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The IDEAS Script Workshop offers Valley College students a place to flex their artistic muscles, whether it is through acting, as technical workers, craftspeople, writers and other roles in the entertainment industry. The classes are open to all experience levels, from beginner to seasoned professional.

IDEAS, the Institute for the Development of Entertainment Arts and Studies, are a regional center for the Economic Workforce Department grant.

"It expands people's creativity; it gives them something to work for," said media arts major Pauline Serra. "What people don't realize is that

|See IDEAS, Page 2

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEARN FROM HISTORY

Valley College instructor has published 32 books, his latest focuses on the Great Depression.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

Ronald A. Reis, Valley College alumnus and head of the technology department, has written 32 books over the past 25 years, and he continues to learn through writing.

His latest, "The Great Depression and the New Deal," is part of a series for junior and high school students.

"The Great Depression and the New Deal" covers the difficult times many Americans experienced during the 1930s. The book was completed in 2009, and the Valley instructor believes that due to the recent economic crisis, this is an opportune time to publish a book about the Great Depression.

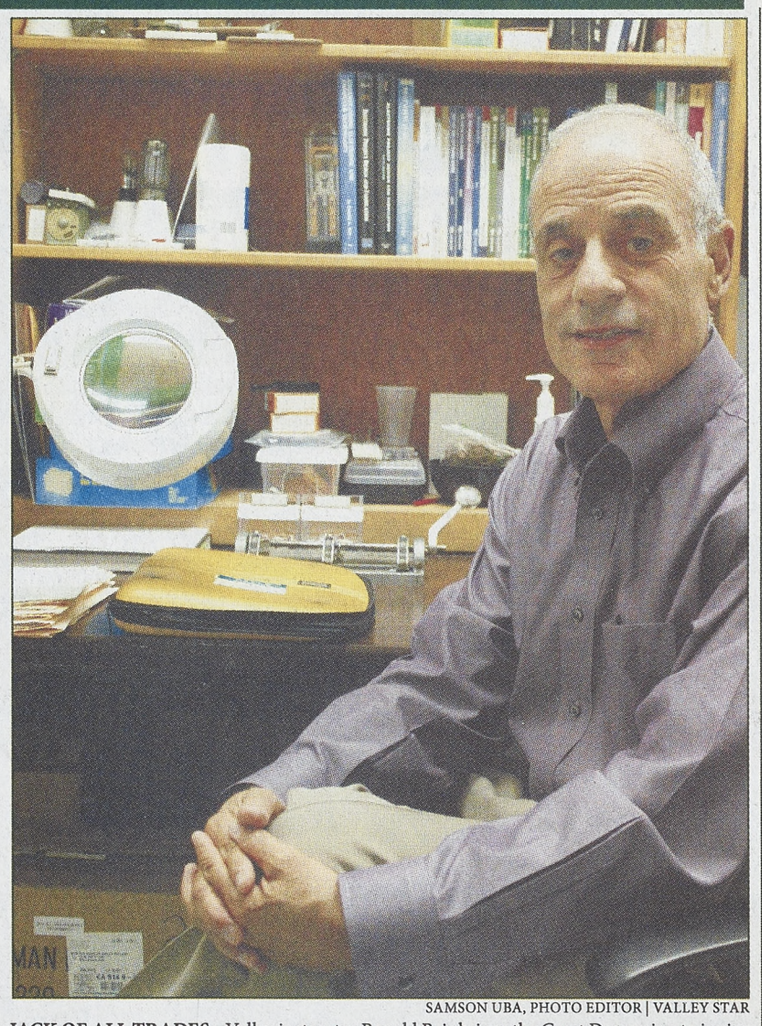
"There are many parallels," said Reis. "There is so much that happened during the depression that, unfortunately, we are experiencing today."

Reis also feels that the Great Depression is something everyone should be interested in because if we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.

His latest offering was written with high school libraries in mind so that it would be accesible for research and information. Though Reis had younger people in mind for the book, the author claims that college students can also use it. "I didn't dumb it down for younger people."

With over two decades of writing experience, Reis continues to reinvent himself as an author. About six years ago, he switched to young-adult non-fiction novels. Before that his books widely varied in subject from his award-winning biography on "Buffalo Bill Cody" and other biographies based on iconic fashion designers such as Valentino Garavani, to his most successful book, "Everything Hot Careers Book."

|See REIS, Page 2



SAMSON UBA, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

JACK OF ALL TRADES - Valley instructor Ronald Reis brings the Great Depression to junior and high school students with his latest book "The Great Depression and The New Deal."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Business Office returns to its normal business hours, Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Deadline for those interested in working at the Financial Aid Office is Friday, Sept. 30.

The final day for Fall 2011 graduation petitions is Friday, Sept. 30.

ONLINE

Valley College hosts the 45th Annual 2011 Senior Olympics Gymnastics Meet.

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

Do you have a news tip? » Send us your news tip to valleystar@lavalleystar.com or join us on Facebook.

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

THE VALLEY STAR is published by students of the journalism and photography classes as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program.

Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Materials published herein, including any opinions expressed and advertisements should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Editorials are the opinion of the editorial board only and do not necessarily represent those of the entire staff. Columns are the opinion of the writer. Letters are the opinions of the reader.

Editorial and Advertising Offices
are located at
5800 Fulton Avenue
Valley Glen, CA 91401
(818) 947-2576.

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Joshua P. Spence

MANAGING EDITOR
Lucas Thompson

PHOTO EDITOR
Samson Uba

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Antwone Mercer

ONLINE EDITOR
Courtney Bassler

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Michael Mkerchyan

STAFF WRITERS
Anne Christensen
Jessica Flores
Michael Mkerchyan
Jose Ramos
Sandra Say
Cristina Serrato

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Claudia Alvarado
Eduardo Alvarez
John Camarena
Maggie Hasbun
Rocio Moreno
Jennifer Morgan
Diana Ortega
Jorge Perez
Richard Razavi
Todd Rosenblatt

CONTRIBUTORS
Kate Krantz

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Chip Rudolph

ADVISERS
Bill Dauber, Rod Lyons

REIS

Continued from page 1

The author explains that in the writing world, people say to "write about what you know"; however, he writes about subjects that he wants to know, or subjects he knows very little about. "In writing non-fiction narrative, one must seek to be illustrative rather than exhaustive," said Reis.

In addition to his biographies on fashion designers, he has also written about athletic superstars such as Mickey Mantle and iconic historical figures like Sitting Bull. According to the author, "A biography is not about a person's life; it is about a person's story." He further elaborates that, "It is not about what a person did; it's about who a person was."

"People often seem surprised that the head of the technology department is writing books about things like fashion designers," said Reis. With two books coming out in the next few months, one in November called "Easter Islands" and another in February about Apollo 13, Reis encourages those interested in reading his work to check Valley's temporary library located on Campus Drive and Emelita Street.

VALLEY PEOPLE

THE DANCE OF DEFIANCE

Noelle Andressen-Kale speaks of life, hardships and how she danced into happiness.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

In 2005, Noelle Andressen-Kale took breast cancer head on and survived, yet she credits a special Valley instructor with helping her heal and find happiness through dance. "Cancer made me get back to dancing because it was a wake-up call," said Kale. She smiled softy, "I wasn't living an authentic life, [and] I'm really a dancer and have always been a dancer."

Although Kale did not have an idealistic childhood, as an adult she was content to live as an up-and-coming, moderately successful film producer. She was also a participant in caring for her grandmother who was undergoing treatment for lung cancer when she received the horrific news of her own breast cancer.

"My grandmother had traditional, conventional treatment with her lung cancer, and after I saw her going to her radiation and chemo treatments, I vowed that I would never go that way. Unfortunately, I had to put my words to use eight months later," she said. "… When I found out that I had cancer, I felt like all the oxygen in my body was just sucked out."

Once the shock dissipated, Kale took it upon herself to change her life, beat the cancer and do it all as naturally as possible. The first step was looking into an alternative medicine clinic she had heard about in Mexico, and then she had to battle the cancer with all her body and spirit.

"I was told about this great clinic from one of the ladies in my church, and after a lot of research, I decided to go through with getting the all natural treatments, and not everyone that I was getting treated with survived; I was one of the lucky ones," she said.



ANTWONE MERCER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

SURVIVOR TO DANCER - Breast cancer survivor Noelle Andressen-Kale finds a new life through the Valley College dance program.

After winning the battle with cancer, Kale knew she needed to keep up with the changes that helped her beat the cancer, and part of that was dancing. Kale enrolled herself in Valley College in 2007, and with the help of professor Geordie Wright, she found her rhythm again.

"Geordie Wright has, and still does, inspire me. When I first met her, I thought she was a beautiful woman and dancer, and if she can do and achieve what she has, well, that was very encouraging to me to keep pushing and not give up," said Kale. "I truly don't think she realizes all she's done for me."

After she was released from her shell of illness and brought back to the livelihood that she had sought, Kale went full speed ahead.

"I admired her strength and determination even before we were married. It was during her fights with cancer I saw these traits take on an even more durable weave," said Kale's husband, Kristopher Kale. "After her cure, it made my heart glad to hear her announce that she wanted to pursue dancing again … having witnessed her tenacity with cancer, I felt almost obligated to the dance community of the glorious and blinding light of what was to come."

She opened her own dance company; Rubans Rouges Dance Company, which performed its first "big deal" dance called "Red Ribbons," mirrored after her own life and abusive childhood. She also joined the Tau Alpha Epsilon honor society, became president of the Dance club, joined the Italian club and became an active participant in the ECO Advocates.

Along with her club duties, Kale is a wife and mother of a 7-year-old son, making her days quite full. But when Kale was asked what helps her get through the long, busy days, she replied, "A tremendous amount of hope … a physical and spiritual higher source; hope."

VALLEY STAR CORRECTIONS AND RETRACTIONS

Last week, Issue 3, "The sheriff's department has made more money this year from issuing citations than the business office has made selling parking permits," was inaccurately reported.

IDEAS

Continued from page 1

much of what's around them is based on art media and whenever there are budget cuts, that's usually the first thing to go, to give way for money to sports. If you think about it, if you take away the music, the art and the other entertainment, then what you have left is an atmosphere that is not enriching for everyone, but only to a select few."

There is also the Greater Los Angeles Writers Society, a non-profit to help writers through monthly guest speakers, special events, opportunities at various book fairs around the state, and, most importantly, critique groups for various genres, including screenwriting, horror, fantasy/sci-fi, romance and children's, offered on alternative Mondays at 7 p.m., usually in CC104, through a partnership with IDEAS and the Media Arts Student Committee. Information on them may be found at glaws.org.

"These generally involve reading out loud up to 15 pages of a member's script and then discussing it in round-robin fashion," said Don Watanabe, director of the Entertainment Industry Training Collaborative at Valley. "At other times, we will read a writer's entire script prior to the meeting and then spend the entire time discussing it."

Watanabe added, "In addition to the screenwriting group, IDEAS and GLAWS also have a new writer's group that specializes in horror writing of all types," he said of the group that is offered on a monthly basis; the next meeting being Oct. 15.



TO HAVE AND TO HAVE NOT

With conversation to fix the budget for UCs, a tuition increase is taking a step backward.

COURTNEY BASSLER
ONLINE EDITOR

If the UC Board of Regents approves the tuition increase proposals in November, then they are clearly in the business of making money and do not care about the future or education of students.

The annual tuition increase ranges from 8 to 16 percent over the next four years, according to the Los Angeles Times, dooming countless students who can barely afford college now.

If approved, students could be facing fees up to $22,000 per semester, which is about half the price of prominent private colleges in the Los Angeles area. The University of Southern California's price tag for the fall semester is $42,818 and Pepperdine University's is $40,752, according to College Board. With the tuition increases in higher education, California is taking a step back to when attending college was more about finding a spouse than getting a degree and strengthening skills for a better future.

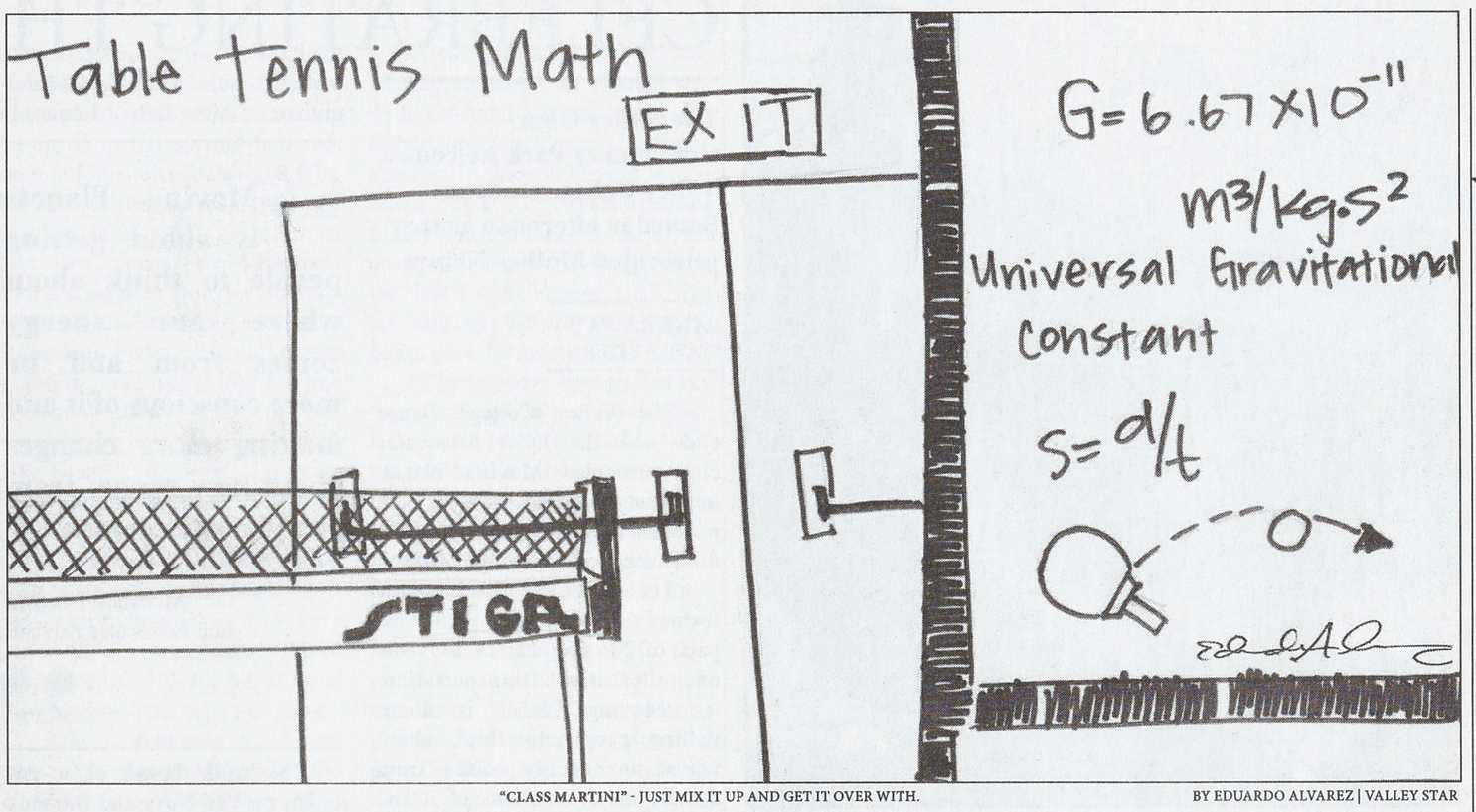
The main reason for the possible increases stems from a $650-million reduction in the state budget, on which the state campuses rely. While many consider charging students more money to be a smart decision, many students would no longer be able to pay for school. Unfortunately, some may have to rely on student loans, adding more to the plate of the student dealing with the 12-percent unemployment rate in California combined with the search to find a seat in overcrowded classes.

Sadly, money is only half the problem. Where to distribute the money is just as important. The salary of San Diego State University's new president, Elliot Hirshman, is $400,000, which is $100,000 more than the president before him. State schools should give Hirshman the same amount as the president before him and take the extra $100,000 and put it to good use by helping those who can't pay for all the costs of school or at least by fixing up the campus.

UC President Mark Yudof said the reason for the possible increase is stability and sustainability and that there needs to be an honoring of the commitment to the students, employees and the facility. Honoring their commitment would make college affordable for as many people as possible, and at one time, that was the vision for California higher education. By implementing fee increases, the California Master Plan for Higher Education would not be honored. The Board of Regents should consider the plan that was outlined more than 50 years ago and stay true to what is expected of them.

According to the IBTimes, if the tuition-raising plan does get approved, middle-class students will be the ones impacted the most. Faced with these obstacles, students are forced to strategize in ways they never had to before. Students are choosing schools that have smaller class sizes so they can get the classes they need to get their bang for their buck. Many are also dropping out of college, planning to save up and return when they can afford it, risking becoming distracted or losing their drive to go back to school and obtain the degree they worked so hard for in the first place.

The money situation is going to be a problem for state schools, but there are better ways to fix the state college system than implementing fee increases. Having an increase not only puts thousands of students in a tough situation to afford school, but it also sends the wrong message: that money is more important than helping those who want and need an education.



"CLASS MARTINI" - JUST MIX IT UP AND GET IT OVER WITH. BY EDUARDO ALVAREZ | VALLEY STAR

TOO MUCH EXERCISE FOR VALLEY

Valley College still offers plenty of physical exercise classes despite students clamoring for required English and math classes to transfer.

ANNE CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College should reduce the number of physical education classes as long as the state's budget cuts are raging like an out-of-control wildfire. Basic requirement classes are being cancelled and greatly reduced, leaving students behind schedule or dropping out of college entirely without getting a degree, work qualifications or fulfilling their transfer requirements.

Students are fighting to get into the math and English classes that are required to complete transfer requirements, yet the available classes are hopelessly few compared to the number of desperate students trying to get in.

The fall semester at Valley offers 30 different physical education classes ranging from tumbling and judo, to table tennis and soccer. Total, there are 76 individual exercise classes compared to 48 of the required English classes 101, 102, and 103—including the honors section—that are required for both associate's degrees and for transferring to a four-year college. Valley is not holding up to its standards of distributing its resources.

Valley has a Vision and a Mission statement readily available on its website that is meant to clarify what future goals the college is working toward and what results the students are expected to be able to achieve once they graduate or transfer. Valley's mission statement reads, "The College serves the community by providing transfer, degree, career-technical, foundational, transitional and continuing education programs in an attractive and accessible learning environment that fosters student success."

This statement doesn't ring true when the college fails to offer students the classes that are required to fulfill their own mission statement and instead continues to focus on classes that will not help students transfer, get an associate's degree or get a job after graduation.

Valley seems less focused on offering classes that fulfill the actual requirements put forth by continued education institutions and is instead focused more on fun physical education classes that won't propel students toward transfer or graduation requirements.

The future looks bleak for both students and Valley as long as there are no budget improvements in sight. If the college is continuing to receive state funding, both the state—meaning the already strained taxpayers—and the students paying fees and for books should expect to be able to take the classes required for their continued success in the educational system.

BARELY BETTER THAN STARVED

As income levels decrease, the starving student slenderizes.

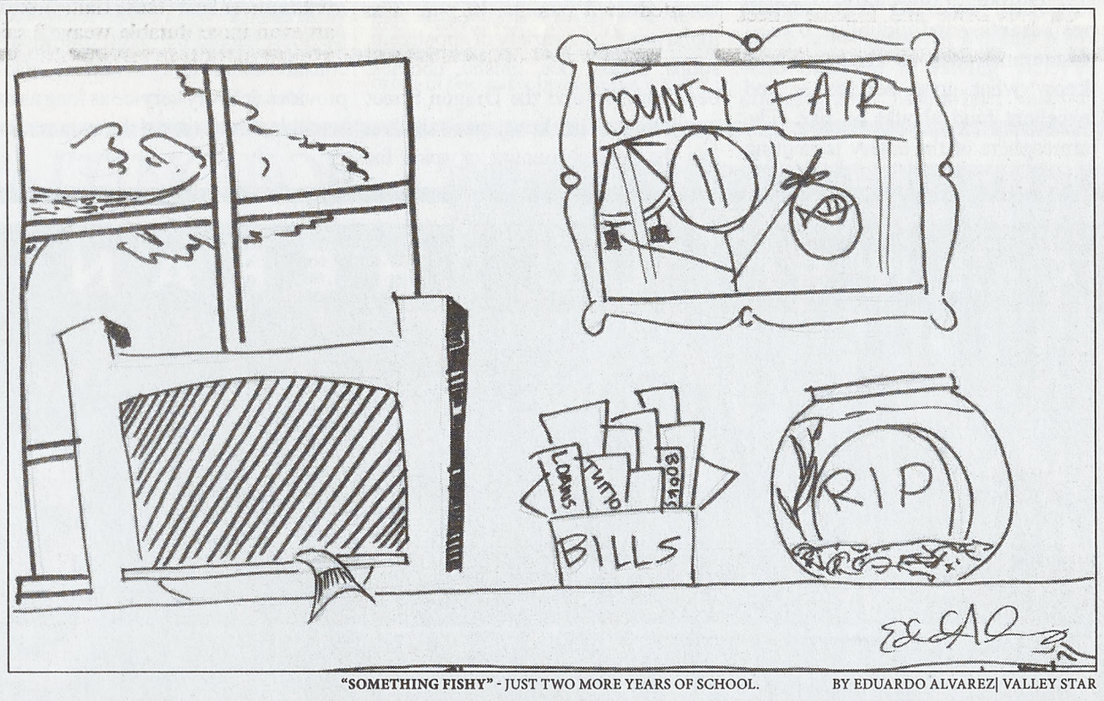
CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

It's disgusting that the once clichéd starving student has now become the literal "slender" norm as poverty levels reach an 18-year high with the average California community college student receiving little government aid and earning a typical yearly income of $10,000.

Sadly, an education no longer promises a meal tomorrow, and for many, there is no hope on the horizon.

According to CaliforniaColleges.edu, after grants and fee waivers, it costs students approximately $2,520 annually to attend a two-year community college, about $1,460 yearly to eat off the dollar menu or shop at the 99 Cent store for every meal and one snack a day, $100 to keep their fish alive (or starve their cat, according to a study from yahoo.com) and another $900 a year to rock their bus pass. This leaves a paltry $4,980 to pay rent, health insurance, clothing and necessities throughout the year.

"That's really low," said Valley student Diamond Louis. "I don't understand how people could live off of that."



"SOMETHING FISHY" - JUST TWO MORE YEARS OF SCHOOL. BY EDUARDO ALVAREZ| VALLEY STAR

> **"It would be hard to live off of that even if you lived with your parents.**
> -Undecided Major Cynthia Linares

The U.S. Census Bureau released its annual poverty and uninsured report Tuesday which states what most of America already knew: We're still broke as hell. The poverty level has risen to a shocking 15.1 percent, and a more appalling figure is that if you make more than $907 a month, you're not impoverished. In fact, in the eyes of the U.S. government, you're doing pretty darn well.

It is impossible to live off $900 a month in Los Angeles, outside of Skid Row. "I couldn't live off of $900 a month with school prices and fee increases. It would be hard to live off of that even if you lived with your parents," said undecided major Cynthia Linares. "My parents have two kids going to college, and it's hard for them to pay for both of our schooling now. I couldn't imagine it with only $23,000 a year."

$23,000 is just above the U.S. poverty level for a four-person family, according to the Department for Health and Human Services 2011 guidelines.

It is abominable that after college many students will have no employment, live in a shattered economy and have an uncertain future. The college students of California fell for the pitiful hype that going to college guaranteed them a "future."

Nobody could have guessed how bleak that future would be.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.

ONE SMALL VICTORY

Homosexuals in the military finally have an equal voice, but there are more battles to win.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Sexual preference should never matter when military personnel sacrifice so much to keep Americans safe, which is why the Sept. 20 revocation of the U.S. Military's ridiculous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was long overdue.

"I don't care if someone is black, white, gay or straight. If you're willing to put your life on the line to do what I won't and save American asses, then by all means go right ahead," said gay rights proponent Lise Worth.

In 1993, former President Bill Clinton enacted the DADT policy to allow homosexuals to fight and serve alongside straight soldiers. After tremendous opposition, a compromise was made that prohibited military officials from asking service personnel about sexual preference. However, soldiers who were found or known to be homosexual were dishonorably discharged.

It is a flat-out shame that regardless of a stellar career with outstanding military service, one could be dishonorably discharged for sexual preference. More than 14,500 military service personnel have been discharged since the law took effect, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. That is a truly appalling number for a country that has spent the past eight years with military service members on foreign soil.

"If gays and lesbians could have entered acceptably in the military with little or no judgment, I would have absolutely volunteered my services," said LBGTQ rights advocate Mimi Amare. "I think they [the military] sorely limit their resources by driving away good gays and lesbians."

The whole policy is a direct anachronism to what America stands for. It's united we stand, not united we stand unless you are a dude who likes other dudes.

"Plus, the closet isn't very comfortable," Amare added.

The revocation of the DADT policy is just a first step to homosexual equality in the military. Military personnel are still denied the right to be as miserable as the rest of us because same-sex marriages are not allowed, or acknowledged, by the U.S. military. They cannot claim same-sex partners for insurance, housing or other purposes under the shield of the Defense of Marriage Act. The act, which was also instated during the oh-so tolerant and open-minded presidency of Bill Clinton, only recognizes marriages between a man and woman.

While the repeal of DADT is a victory, there is still an extremely uphill battle for the LGBTQ community.

"After this, there's just a million other battles to take on, like transgendered people and stuff. There will be lots of P.O.'d people and craziness, I'm sure," said former Valley student Jay Pantel.

Despite the fact that the Pentagon said it expected little fallout from the Sept. 20 repeal of the law, there are nut-jobs aplenty protesting in opposition. Whenever there is change, there are always growing pains, but U.S. citizens should be proud to flex their freedom muscles and be gay in uniform.

VALLEY VIEW | COULD YOU LIVE OFF $900 A MONTH?



"Yes. I don't have to pay rent. I just pay for gas, clothes and food."

-ERIC FALCONI
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"Yes, I know how to budget and get what I want without too much money."

-TIFFANY BLACKWELL
ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE



"No, because everything costs a lot. That's like, basically, rent money. You can't live off of that."

-ERIK LEON
COMPUTER SCIENCE



"Not with this economy. It's really bad, and honestly, [with] gas prices and everything, it's way too high."

-JACKY CASTILLO
NURSING



"Yeah, because it's only $900, you only need to buy the necessities such as food, school supplies and bills; not the extras."

-ALFREDO ZAMORA
CHILD DEVELOPMENT

COMPILED BY JESSICA FLORES, COURTNEY BASSLER AND RICHARD RAZAVI | VALLEY STAR

LAVC Events

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Fall Semester 2011 - Filing Period for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions

Personnel Commission Office Hour sponsored by the LACCD Personnel Commission @ 8- 9:30 a.m. (Campus Center, Room 104) – Contact: Rosie Castro (818) 891-2088

Tom Luer Jazz Quintet Concert sponsored by the LAVC Music Department @ 1- 2 p.m. (Music 112 - Music Instrumental Room); Admission: Free – Contact: LAVC Music Department Concert Hotline (818) 778-5633 Music Department Web Page

Designing Weavers Meeting sponsored by Designing Weavers @ 6:30- 8:30 p.m. (Math Science Building, Room 106) – Contact: Sally Raskoff (818) 947-2937

Thursday, Sept. 29

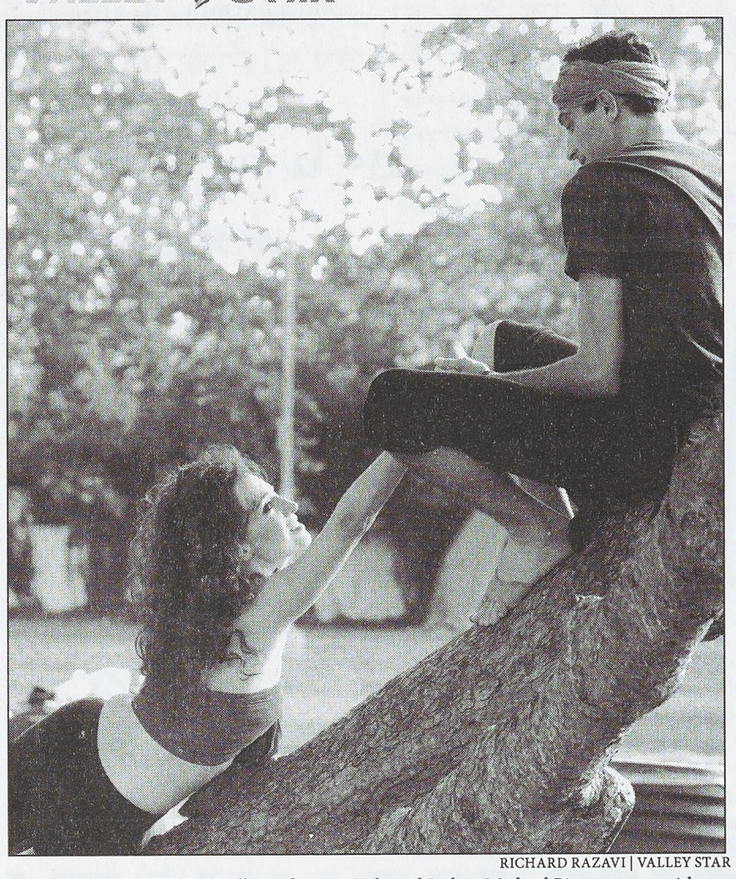
UC Berkeley Admissions Workshop sponsored by LAVC Career/Transfer Center @ 12-1:30 p.m. (Bungalow 83) – Contact: LAVC Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646 Career/Transfer Center Web Page

CSUN Admissions Representative sponsored by LAVC Career/ Transfer Center @ 2- 5 p.m. (Career/Transfer Center) – Contact: LAVC Career/Transfer Center (818) 947-2646 Career/ Transfer Center Web Page

Upward Bound Thursday Workshop sponsored by the LAVC Upward Bound Program @ 4- 6 p.m. (Student Services Multi-Purpose Room) – Contact: Julie Vasquez (818) 947-2687 Upward Bound Web Page

Friday, September 30

Fall Semester 2011 - Final Day for Fall 2011 Graduation Petitions



RICHARD RAZAVI | VALLEY STAR

ONE WITH NATURE- Noelle Andressen-Kale and Joshua Micheal Pirro are one with tree at Valley Glen Community park as they perform Natural Beauty with the Valley College Dance Club.

CELEBRATING THE EARTH

The Valley Glen Community Park welcomed Valley College students Saturday afternoon as they celebrated Mother Nature.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Dance club and the ECO Advocates club presented Moving Planet, an event to bring students and residents together Saturday for a chance to appreciate nature.

The ECO Advocates formed a symbolic walk as part of Moving Planet to show an alternative transportation.

"Moving Planet is about getting people to think about where our energy comes from and be more conscious of it and making more changes about how we get from one place to another," said ECO Advocates advisor, Meredath Leonord.

> **"Moving Planets is about getting people to think about where our energy comes from and be more conscious of it and making more changes about how we get from one place to another**
>
> -Meredath Leonord
> Eco Advocates Advisor

The walk began at a gas station on Van Nuys and Burbank Boulevards and ended at the Valley Glen Community Park.

ECO Advocate member, Emelie Traub, found the symbolism with the walk starting with the problem, a gas station, and it ending at the solution, the park.

The Dance club performed a literal dance titled "Natural Beauty."

"We thank nature with gestures," explained Dance club member Johanaena Hababag.

According to the Dance Club choreographer, Noelle Andressen-Kale, the dance was intense and tough compared to what they usually do on stage. The choreography displayed the dancers as one with nature. Andressen-Kale added that it is not easy to use a tree as a stage. However, many people sitting on the grass at Valley Glen Community Park watched as the Dance clubs made the most striking tree come to life with their dance.

The event brought students and the community together and focused on the environment, encouraging them to host events that will benefit them and their surroundings.

THE WAY OF THE DRAGON

Forget about Panda Express and enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine in a peaceful environment.

SANDRA SAY
STAFF WRITER

If you are searching for a quiet and relaxing place to eat authentic Chinese food but don't have the time to swim the Pacific Ocean to get to China, look no further than North Hollywood's Dragon Street, a small restaurant on the corner of Lankershim Boulevard and Morrison Street.

Unlike big-chain Asian restaurants, individually owned restaurants such as Dragon Street know what good service is and excellent food should be like. The atmosphere of the eatery is inviting and calm; perfect for enjoying a peaceful meal with the family or friends, or just when you want to get away and eat like a king.

Entering Dragon Street instantly feels like an escape from the chaos of the city or stress from school or work. The entrance greets guests with bamboo decoration. The beige and green walls are a little dull, but the lighting and the bright color of the seats makes up for it with interior design contributes to the environment of the eatery.

Dragon Street is ambidextrous in that it is made up of Chinese cuisine on one side and a Japanese sushi bar on the other. The sushi bar, however, is only open during lunch hours from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The menu provides a variety of appetizers, soups, salads, rice, mushu, noodles, beef, chicken and the Dragon Street specialties. The kung pao chicken has the perfect amount of spice for those who like a little kick, but the real treat is the szechuan chicken. The plate is made up of chicken breast, bell pepper, onions, carrots and wood ear mushrooms in a spicy brown sauce. The chicken is tender, and the vegetables make a great combination with the spicy sauce that gives it a scrumptious flavor. The other winner on the menu is the vegetable and tofu soup. This bowl contains Napa cabbage, snow peas, carrots, mushrooms and soft tofu.

There are two serving portions to choose from, half of a portion, which is about $2 fewer than the full portion and is priced between $6 and $15. Although it is a little pricey, the location and the quality of the service and most importantly, the food should be taken into great consideration. Dragon Street also provides delivery service as long as it is within three miles of the restaurant.

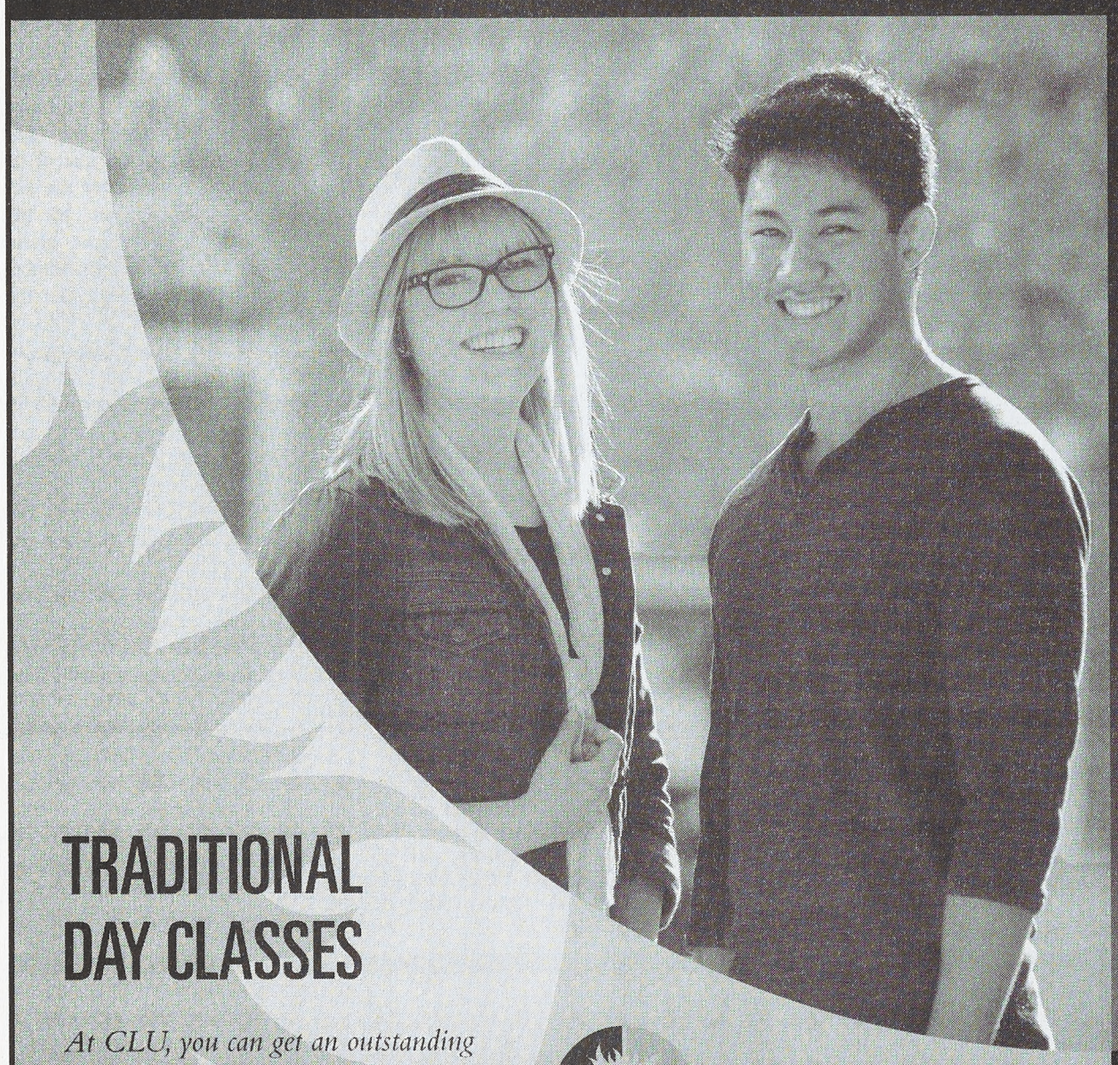
JOIN THE VALLEY STAR

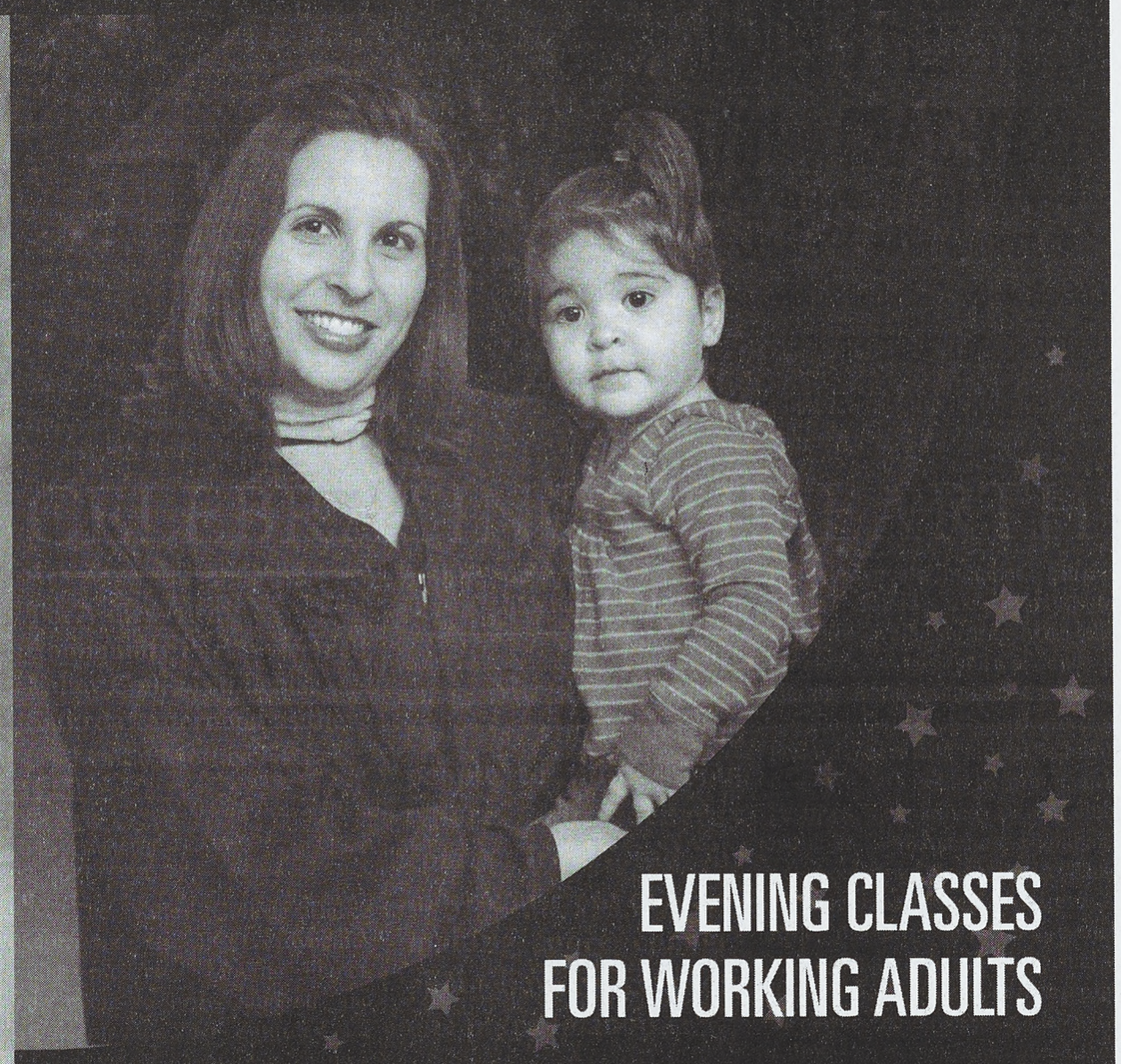
The Valley Star is looking for dedicated students when it comes to reporting and journalism. We welcome writers, designers and video editors who can contribute.

To receive more info on joining the Valley Star, please visit us at:

WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM/JOIN

CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY





TRADITIONAL DAY CLASSES

At CLU, you can get an outstanding private school education at a cost similar to California's public schools.

WHY TRANSFER TO CLU?

- 37 majors, 32 minors
- The CLU Guarantee makes up the cost difference between CLU and many of the UCs.
- Graduate Sooner
- Attend one of the "Top 20 Schools in the West" according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

California Lutheran UNIVERSITY

1.877.CLU-FOR-U | www.callutheran.edu/undergraduate

EVENING CLASSES FOR WORKING ADULTS

The Adult Degree Evening Program (ADEP) provides convenient evening and online classes at the Woodland Hills Center.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES:

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Organizational Leadership (Now Online!)
- Psychology

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

1.888.CLU-GRAD | www.callutheran.edu/adep

THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS: THOUSAND OAKS, OXNARD AND WOODLAND HILLS

DAN OWEN OUT FOR SEASON

The Valley College Monarchs take the good with the bad in Saturday's 24-12 victory against the San Diego Mesa Olympians.

ANTWONE MERCER
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Monarch football team broke its two-game losing streak Saturday, beating the San Diego Mesa Olympians 24-12. Despite the victory, the team suffered a major loss when quarterback Dan Owen broke his femur early in the second quarter. The injury leaves Owen out for the season and possibly more.

In the second quarter, Owen took a low blow from Olympian linebacker Preston Gimlin directly above the left knee. The pressure snapped Owen's femur on contact.

"I knew it was broken [as] soon as he hit me," said Owen.

After nearly an hour of medical attention, Owen was carried off the field on a gurney and rushed to Sharp Memorial Hospital where he underwent surgery.

"I'm sure I won't be back this year, but it's not over for me," Owen said.

The Monarchs came out determined and with something to prove in the second half, not only to Monarch coaches and fans, but also to themselves. After giving up 1,001 total yards in its last two games, the Monarchs found a niche at Douglas Stadium with wide-receiver Christian Robertson who filled Owen's position as quarterback and improved their record to 2-2.

Although Monarch Coach Jim Fenwick describes his team as, "banged up," he acknowledges there is no lack of effort.

"We knew we were better than the way we've been playing," said Fenwick. "I'm very proud of the them; they stayed disciplined and did a lot of good things tonight to win the game."

After completing a 48-yard pass to Christop Walker and another 19 yards to Walker three plays later, Owen handed off to running back Michael Johnson for a 1-yard burst to give the Monarchs an early first-quarter lead.

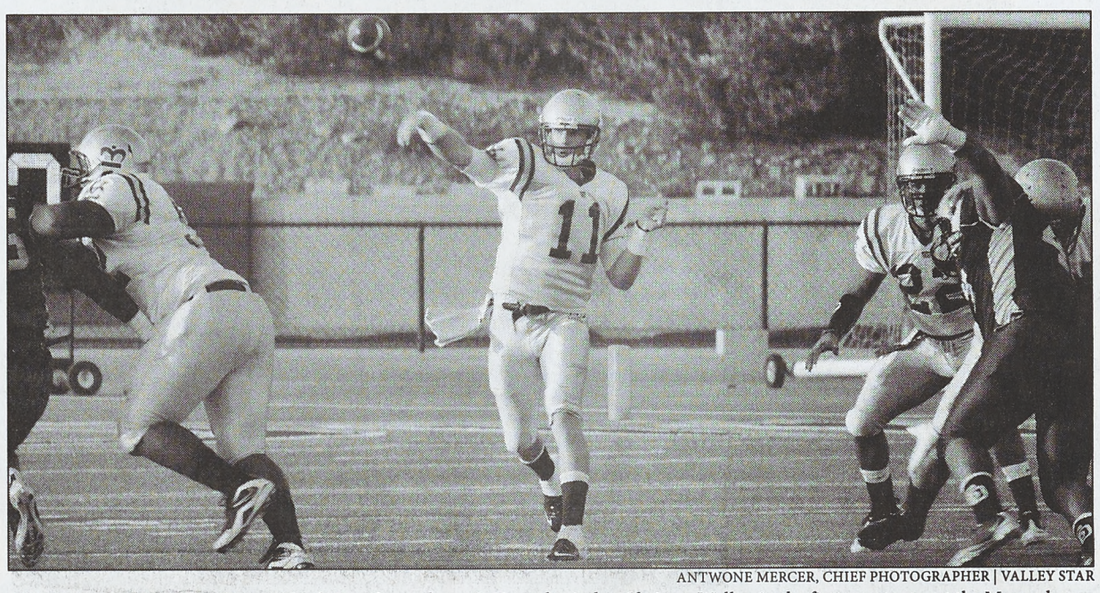
As vital of a player as Owen is, the Monarchs' roster is not devoid of talent. Wide-receiver Christian Robertson replaced Owen and led the team to its second win with 156 total passing yards. On Robertson's first snap, he threw a perfectly thrown 22-yard touchdown strike, to wide-receiver Morey Croson. Later in the fourth quarter, Robertson swung out to the left for a 33-yard rush that set him up for his next touchdown pass for another 22 yards.

"The pressure was on, but my team believed in me, so I made it happen," Robertson said. "But, we still have a lot of work to do."

The defense also played a big role in the Monarchs' 24-12 win. In particular, cornerback Winston Rose was all over the field. Rose had three solo tackles, four assists and two interceptions. He also saved two touchdowns by swatting down the ball. A last-second pick by Rose sealed the game and gave the Monarchs its second win.

"I just wanted to help turn this team around, so I stayed disciplined and played hard," said Rose. "This one was for Owen."

Next week, the Monarchs will be at home at 6 p.m. against the 0-4 Glendale Vaqueros.



ANTWONE MERCER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

OUT FOR THE SEASON - Quarterback Dan Owen threw A 48-yard spiral to Christop Walker in the first quarter to set the Monarchs up for a 1-yard rusing touchdown. Owen would later break his femur early in the second quarter against the Sand Diego Mesa Olympians.



TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

NO GOAL - West L.A.'s Wildcats goalkeeper prepares to punch a ball out of the box, making one of many strong saves against Valley College.

VALLEY TAMES THE WILDCATS

The Monarchs happily show the Wildcats whose boss.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Valley took a break from its recent losing streak to spank West L.A. College with a 6-0 win, proving the Monarchs are still formidable opponents.

"They played much better," said onlooker Fredo Mesa. "Valley deserves to have a win; they need it."

Despite recent losses, Monarch players appeared to be in great spirits when they hit the field Friday. Meanwhile, West L.A.'s lack of depth overwhelmed the team and allowed the Monarchs to box them into Valley's offensive zone, which they were unable to clear.

Seeing the opposing team's obvious weaknesses, the Monarchs quickly formed an aggressive opposition against the Wildcats who consistently left their defenses open. Monarch players Cindy Garcia and Franchesca Vasquez made a perfect duo as they assisted each other in two early back-to-back goals.

"[It] was great to get a result that went our way, but we are being cautious and keeping this win in perspective. West L.A. is the worst team we faced all year, and we really can't take anything away from that game other than a good result, and everyone on the team got significant playing time," said Coach Shane Watkins. "We are hoping all the goals we scored will give us the confidence that may have been lacking for the team heading into conference play next week."

The Monarchs were extremely confident as they continually shut out the less aggressive, much slower Wildcats who struggled to keep up. Valley slammed West L.A. with continual attempts at goals. But, the goalkeeper seemed to be the only player equipped to deal with Valley's onslaught and blocked three more attempts before giving in to a third goal, a header scored by Valley's midfielder Xiomara Martinez shortly before halftime.

After the break, the Monarchs returned with renewed vigor to continue their merciless onslaught of the now-exhausted Wildcats who were incapable of leaving Valley's offensive zone. Meanwhile, Valley's goalie paced anxiously with boredom across the field until teammate foreward Helen Pacheco scored a goal on the Wildcats from the sideline.

"This game was the end of our preseason. Although we feel that we didn't get a few results that we should have gotten, the group is ready to start conference this week," said Watkins.



TODD ROSENBLATT | VALLEY STAR

USING HER HEAD - Valley College Monarch's midfielder Alyssa Ziegler heads the ball forward in a Monarch win on Friday.

WHAT THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR

Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. have to step into the ring.

LUCAS THOMPSON
MANAGING EDITOR

As we approach the two-week mark since the mockery that was the fight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. (42-0) and Victor Ortiz (29-3-2), the looming question of when Pacquiao and Mayweather will step into the ring still remains unanswered, and the monumental blunder for professional boxing of failing to do so looks more promising.

"I don't need Pacquiao," Mayweather said in his press conference after the Ortiz fight. "With or without Pacquiao, every time Floyd Mayweather goes out there, he's going to make $27 million … period."

This comment came shortly after a remark earlier in the press conference where Mayweather stated, "It's not about the money, it's about the entertainment."

Apparently to Mayweather, Pacquiao and boxing, it's not about the entertainment, and it hasn't been. The incredibly uneventful fight that took place in May between Manny Pacquiao (53-3-2) and Shane Mosley (46-7-1), which ended in a unanimous decision, giving Pacquaio the victory, was as unentertaining as it gets. Pacquaio dancing around the ring, toying with Mosley as the thousands in attendance and millions at home prayed for some bit of spark … it never happened.

This followed by the next "big-ticket event" in Ortiz and Mayweather, which not only fell short of expectations, but also showed how irrelevant boxing has become. A well-marketed and much-anticipated fight, because "Money" Mayweather was on the card, that ended with a kid, 10 years younger than Mayweather, head-budding, hugging, then smooching Mayweather on the cheek right before he was knocked out with a one-two combination. If you didn't see the fight, Ortiz had his hands down because, "he didn't hear the referee say, 'fight.'" A well-hyped fight that ended in the fourth round and the conclusion that the stage was glaringly too big for Ortiz.

It's clearly not about the money for either fighter, as they have both expressed that they "do not need each other." But boxing needs this fight to stay relevant against the ever-surging MMA. Granted, boxing is still the king of the ring when it comes to PPV buys, but boxing is more than 100 years old where MMA is only 20. The relevance of the UFC and MMA is steadily increasing, as boxing is consistently decreasing. Even the retired "golden boy" Oscar De La Hoya is teamed up with the company Affliction to promote the MMA–tell me that's not a sign.

It's about relevance, and if professional boxing can't get consistency in getting the two sides to agree on negotiations and once and for all get the two best fighters in the past decade to square off for one of the biggest fights in history, then in 100 years, all televised fights will be taking place in an octagon.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW PREVIEW
VISIT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM



ANTWONE MERCER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

ELEVATION- Assistant gymnast coach Sammi Braun won one silver and two gold medals during Sunday's 45th Annual 2011 Senior Olympics Gymnastic Meet at Valley College.

Get Your Associates Degree and go to Law School.

☐ Good Idea.

☐ Great Idea.

☐ All of the above.

Enroll in Trinity Law School in the Fall.

You can attend law school upon completion of your Associates Degree. Go straight to law school. Save time, save money, and get a great education with unlimited opportunities.

TRINITY LAW SCHOOL
2200 North Grand Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705
800.922.4748 | www.TLS.edu

INSPIRATION FOR ANOTHER GENERATION

Text By

KATE KRANTZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Photos By

CLAUDIA ALVARADO & JOHN CAMARENA
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

UCLA art professor and local artist Judith Baca, the "Great Wall Mother," joined community members Sept. 16 to commemorate the restoration and rededication of the Great Wall of Los Angeles, a monument outlining the history of California. Painted on a stretch of the L.A. River's Tujunga Wash, spanning from Burbank Boulevard to Oxnard Avenue along Coldwater Canyon, it is credited as the largest multicultural mural in the world.

"[The mural] is a form that people mistake as only occurring in the 20th century, but it is the very beginning form of art," said Baca. "The very first people in the world stepped out of their caves and painted on the walls. They left marks for us to see, and that has been a measure of civilization. We work in a grand tradition."

In conjunction with the rise of the Chicano movement of the 1960s to the 1980s, Baca worked on the mural from the summer of 1976 to 1984 through her nonprofit Social and Public Art Resource Center.

For eight years, she transformed disenfranchised youth with spray cans in their hands into talented artists with paintbrushes. Some included Raul Gonzalez, Joe Bravo and Carlos Callejo, now professional artists in their late 40s.

Due to destruction from the sun, pollution and flooding from the past three decades, Baca and her team of artists used significant chemicals and techniques to repair the wall's deterioration in 2005.

After its creation 35 years ago, Baca and her team of artists, UCLA students, interns and various other supporters have completed refurbishing the last 100 feet of the mural after three scorching summer months.

With a multitude of vibrant colors, artists revived the gray-paved walls of the river, capturing the eyes of bikers, joggers, students and other passersby and calling to them like an unopened book waiting to be read.

"Restoration is bringing back the peace, and conservation is trying to keep it the way it is," said Gonzalez, who worked on the mural. "Conservation leaves the mark of the artist as it was, and the restoration makes the piece shine again."

There are plans to expand the wall. Future sections of the Great Wall will contain events of the 1960s through the 2000s, and "it will keep going as long as history keeps happening," said Baca.



CLAUDIA ALVARADO | VALLEY STAR

MURAL MOBILE - Roberto Del Hoyo demonstrates the mural lab where much of the brainstorming takes place.



CLAUDIA ALVARADO | VALLEY STAR

S.P.A.R.C. TABLE - Felipe Sanchez sets up a vendor table with mural replicas on canvas and postcards.



JOHN CAMARENA | VALLEY STAR

PIECE OF A PUZZLE - A newly restored segment of the Great Wall of Los Angeles depicting Fascism is among the many panels comprising the 2,754-foot mural.



CLAUDIA ALVARADO | VALLEY STAR

LAB PARTNERS - Roberto Del Hoyo and David Russell proudly stand in front of their van displaying their contribution to "The Great Wall."



JOHN CAMARENA | VALLEY STAR

THE ORIGINAL ARTIST - The "Great Wall Mother," Judith Baca, speaks at the rededication of the Great Wall of Los Angeles Sept. 16, 2011, sharing words of wisdom with the Los Angeles community.